

Tahoe National Forest, American River Ranger District / Yuba River Ranger District

SHORT-FORM BOTANICAL REVIEW

(Biological Assessment, Evaluation, Invasive Plant Risk Assessment, & Other Botanical Resource Assessment)

PROJECT NAME: Yuba Enhancement Restoration

QUAD(S): Mount Fillmore, Gold Lake, Downieville LEGAL SUBDIVISION: T20N & T21N, R10E & R11E S 13,35, 34,4,36,23,9,26,25

LOCATION: Project locations are north of Hwy 49 in the upper reaches of the Lavezzola Creek, Rattlesnake Creek, and Pauley Creek watersheds. The four proposed motorized trail re-routes and three unauthorized route removals are located within the East and West Yuba Inventoried Roadless Areas. The two proposed motorized connector trails lie outside the Inventoried Roadless Areas. Elevations range from 4,100 feet to 6650 feet.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Forest Service is proposing the Yuba Trails Enhancement Project to: (1) four motorized trail re-routes followed by subsequent decommissioning and restoration of the replaced trail sections; (2) removal of three existing unauthorized routes through restoration to a natural state; and (3) construction one connector motorized trail on National Forest System lands on the Yuba River Ranger District of the Tahoe National Forest. The removal of existing routes will not involve ground disturbance and will be achieved with the use of route blocking methods such as boulders, down trees, and branches. Proposed re-route and connector trails will be constructed at a width of 24 inches-36 inches and brush removal of 5 feet from trail center.

Comment [MC-F1]: This is my language but not found in EA. Would be good to clarify in EA.

Trail Re-Routes: The four proposed motorized trail reroutes are designed to eliminate problems associated with overly steep and heavily eroding portions of the Rattlesnake/Downie River Trail, Pauley Creek Trail, Big Boulder Trail, and Lavezzola Trail as follows:

Downie River / Rattlesnake Trail: The Project would re-route approximately 1.5-miles of the steep existing Rattlesnake trail segment (25-40% grades) that is intercepting a drainage, and replace it with an approximately 2.5 miles of multiple use motorized single track trail with a grade of 5-10%. With the proposed re-route, the entire trail length will be called the Downie River Trail. The Project would decommission and restore the existing 1.5-mile steep section of trail (25-40% grades).

Pauley Creek Trail: The Project would re-route approximately 0.5 miles of a steep existing trail segment (25-35% grades) that climbs straight up and replace it with approximately 0.5 miles of multiple use motorized single track trail with grades of 5-10%. The Project would decommission and restore 0.5 miles of a steep existing section of trail (25-35% grades).

Lavezzola Trail: The Project would re-route approximately 2 miles of a steep existing trail segment (25-40% grades) that climbs straight up and replace it with approximately 3 miles of multiple use motorized single track trail with grades of 5-10%. The Project would decommission and restore the 2-mile steep existing section of trail (25-40% grades).

Big Boulder Trail: The Project would re-route approximately 1 mile of a steep existing trail segment (25-40% grades) that climbs straight up and replace it with approximately 1 mile of multiple use motorized single track trail with grades of 5-10%. The Project would decommission and restore the 1-mile steep existing section of trail (25-40% grades).

Connector Trail: Second Divide Trail: This proposed 0.15-mile connector trail is designed to enhance the safety and experience of users on First, Second and Third Divide Trails by building a trail that bypasses the County Road that connects the two popular trails. Currently a legal connection for motorcycle users does not exist as green sticker motorcycles are not allowed on roads not classified for their use under the *Tahoe National Forest Motorized Travel Management Record of Decision* (September 2010). This connector trail would also improve the user experience by creating a continuous single track

trail that extends Second Divide Trail with a connection to First Divide Trail. The new multiple use motorized single track trail would be designed with grades of 5-10%.

Unauthorized Route Restoration: The unauthorized route to Sisson Mine, an unauthorized route near Hawley Meadow (old Gold Valley), and unauthorized route near Butcher Ranch would be removed and the land restored to a natural grade. These routes are not needed for public use and are unsustainable. Approximately 3 miles of unauthorized routes would be restored to natural conditions.

1 PRE-FIELD RECORDS AND RESEARCH

The botanical species (plants, fungi, lichen) that are targeted for management on TNF (i.e. federally threatened and endangered; Forest Service Sensitive; TNF invasive plants; and TNF watch list) are listed into the following sections under Biological Assessment / Evaluation (BA/BE), Invasive Plant Risk Assessment (IPRA) and Other Botanical Resources Assessment (OBRA) respectively. The presence of target species and the likelihood of suitable habitat for TES species was determined by reviewing the US Fish and Wildlife List for TNF, the Region 5 Forest Service Sensitive Species list, TNF corporate datasets (NRIS) for TES occurrences, IP inventory datasets and TESP-IS surveys (USDA Forest Service 2015d), California Natural Diversity Database records (California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2016), and TNF corporate GIS datasets of vegetation, soil, elevation, aspect, meadows, fens, soil types and hydrologic features as well as personal knowledge of the project area (USDA Forest Service 2015a, USDA Forest Service 2015b, USDA Forest Service 2015c, USDA Forest Service 2009). Presence or absence of TES occurrences and suitable habitat is verified during field surveys. Pre-field research is incorporated into the BA/BE, IPRA and OBRA below.

2 FIELD RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY

Field reconnaissance surveys of the project area along 14.5 miles of proposed re-route and connector trails (169 acres) were conducted on 8/10/2016 and 6/10/2018 Lavezolla re-route (39120F7-16-01), 6/21/2018 Downie re-route (39120F7-17-01), 7/5/2018 Pauley re-route (39120F6-17-01), 6/13/2017 2nd Divide Trail (39120E7-17-01), and 7/7/2018 Big Boulder re-route (39120F6-17-01), by TNF botany crew members. The unauthorized route to Sisson Mine, an unauthorized route near Hawley Meadow (old Gold Valley), and unauthorized route near Butcher Ranch were not surveyed due to lack of ground disturbance for proposed road closure. 2018 follow up surveys will be conducted on Big Boulder re-route and Second Divide Connector trail due to changes in proposed trail locations following 2017 surveys. Surveys are floristic in nature, but focused on target species; they are timed to coincide with the flowering period of target species—particularly TES species—with the exception of FSS fungi which are usually fruiting only in early spring or late fall when other plants are dormant. Surveyors utilized ‘intuitive control’ survey method, which requires survey coverage of at least 25 percent in areas with low to moderate potential for target species and at least 50 percent in areas of high potential for target species. Surveys were conducted by walking the proposed trail construction flag line and proposed decommission roads. The proposed flagline was surveyed out at least 25 feet from trail center. Areas identified as having potential for target species were surveyed intensively. Presence or absence of suitable habitat for TES species is noted. If there are known occurrences of target species identified during pre-field research, they are revisited during field surveys to verify occurrence and geospatial accuracy.

Survey area elevations were between 3,600- 6,500 feet in elevation. Aspects varied in large drainages and slopes were generally steep (30%-50%) leading into drainages. Soils were dominated by Waca-Meiss complex (WDF), Waca-Windy complex (WAF), Smokey-Lorack-Cryumbrepts wet complex (SOF), and Rock outcrop metamorphic –Tinker-Cryumbrepts wet complex (MMRG).

Upper montane conifer forests (SMC, WFR, JPN) were found on the Downie/Rattlesnake, Pauley, Big Boulder, and Lavezzola re route and decommission trails. These forests were dominated by red fir (*Abies magnifica*), white fir (*Abies concolor*), Jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*), sugar pine (*Pinus lambertiana*), and Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*).

Montane chaparral (MCP) vegetation type was found on Downie/Rattlesnake, Pauley, Big Boulder, and Lavezzola re route and decommission trails. This vegetation type was dominated by huckleberry oak (*Quercus vacciniifolia*), Greenleaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos patula*), and pinemat manzanita (*Arctostaphylos nevadensis*).

Montane hardwood (MHW) vegetation type was found along riparian areas on Downie/Rattlesnake and Lavezzola re-route and decommission trails. This vegetation type was dominated by big leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*), Rocky Mountain maple (*Acer glabrum*) and dogwood (*Cornus species*).

Mining and recreation activities were noted in survey areas. Evidence of past mining activity and disturbance was found along the Lavezzola re-route and Downie/Rattlesnake re-route. Routes proposed for decommission were found to be steep and eroding.

Survey, TES and invasive plant records are on file electronically at TNF Supervisor's Office as well as in the Forest Service database of record—Natural Resource Information System (NRIS). Survey results are incorporated into the following Biological Assessment / Evaluation, Other Botanical Resources Assessment, and Invasive Plant Risk Assessment.

3 BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT / EVALUATION

This section discusses effects to TES botanical species (plants, fungi, lichen) from the proposed action.

3.1 Survey adequacy

Surveys completed at recommended intensity: ☐ YES ☒ NO

Pre-implementation surveys are needed on the Boulder re route and 2nd divide extension due to changes in proposed routes surveyed in 2017. Surveys scheduled for 2018 season. Surveys were not conducted on the unauthorized route to Sisson Mine and unauthorized route near Hawley Meadow. Proposed action of restoration along these routes did not require ground disturbance activities.

3.2 TES Botanical Species and Suitable Habitat Presence

Table 1. List of all TES botanical species with known occurrences or suitable habitat on TNF. If suitable habitat or occurrences are known in the project area, it is noted.

Species	Common name	Suitable habitat characteristics	Known in project	Suitable habitat in project	Why habitat is not suitable
<i>Ivesia webberi</i>	Webber's ivesia	4,500-6,500ft; east of Sierra crest; Lassen – Sierra counties; flats, benches, terraces or alluvial fans; well-developed, vernal moist, clayey soils with a very cobbled surface.	No	No	Outside species known range. Species known east of Sierra Crest in Dog Valley and Sierra Valley.
<i>Packera layneae</i>	Layne's butterweed	650-3,600ft; Tuolumne - Nevada counties; ultramafic soils (gabbro & serpentine); chaparral, conifer forest or woodland edges/openings	No	No	Outside species known elevational range. No ultramafic soils.
<i>Astragalus lemmonii</i>	Lemmon's milkvetch	4,000-7,000ft in CA; east of Sierra crest; lakeshores, meadows & seeps among Great Basin scrub	No	No	Outside species known range. Known east of Sierra Crest.

Species	Common name	Suitable habitat characteristics	Known in project	Suitable habitat in project	Why habitat is not suitable
<i>Astragalus pulsiferae</i> var. <i>coronensis</i>	Modoc Plateau milkvetch	4,400-6,200ft; east of Sierra crest; Modoc – Plumas and Sierra Counties; Sandy or gravelly soils, often with juniper, pine or sagebrush	No	No	Outside species known range. Known east of Sierra Crest.
<i>Astragalus webberi</i>	Webber's milkvetch	2,400-4,100ft; east of Sierra crest; known only from Plumas County; dry forest openings/edges & semi-disturbed areas	No	No	Project area is outside geographic range of species, known only from Plumas NF.
<i>Boechea rigidissima</i> (Arabis rigidissima var. demota)	Galena Creek rock cress	Above 7,500ft; east of Sierra crest; known only in Placer County, California and Washoe County, Nevada; mesic areas (sometimes rocky) at red fir forest to aspen/meadow transitions.	No	No	Below species known elevational range and known only east of Sierra Crest.
<i>Botrychium ascendens</i>	upswept moonwort	Above 4,000ft (gen 5,000-7,500ft on TNF); wet habitats (riparian, seeps, meadows, etc.)	No	Yes	Suitable seep/spring and riparian habitat present in project area. Project area within known distribution and range of species.
<i>Botrychium crenulatum</i>	scalloped moonwort	Above 4,000ft (gen 5,000-7,500ft on TNF); wet habitats (riparian, seeps, meadows, etc.)	No	Yes	Suitable seep/spring and riparian habitat present in project area. Project area within known distribution and range of species.
<i>Botrychium lunaria</i>	common moonwort	Above 6,000ft in CA; wet habitats (riparian, seeps, meadows, etc.)	No	Yes	Suitable seep/spring and riparian habitat present in project area. Project area within known distribution and range of species.
<i>Botrychium minganense</i>	Mingan's moonwort	Above 4,000ft (gen 5,000-7,500ft on TNF); wet habitats (riparian, seeps, meadows, etc.)	No	Yes	Suitable seep/spring and riparian habitat present in project area. Project area within known distribution and range of species.
<i>Botrychium montanum</i>	western goblin	Above 4,000ft in CA; wet habitats (riparian, seeps, meadows, etc.)	No	Yes	Suitable seep/spring and riparian habitat present in project area. Project area within known distribution and range of species.
<i>Bruchia bolanderi</i>	Bolander's bruchia	Above 5,000ft in CA; montane meadows, stream banks, drying lake beds; on bare, semi-disturbed wet soils where competition is minimal	No	No	No suitable habitat found. No bare edges of semi-disturbed soil.
<i>Cudonia monticola</i>	large cudonia	No elevation restriction; in duff; usually within old-growth conifer forests	No	Yes	Old growth Red fir forest present; more specific habitat suitability parameters unknown, not detectable at time of survey. Unlikely to be found in CA.
<i>Cypripedium fasciculatum</i>	clustered lady's slipper	Below 6,000ft on TNF; mesic, mid- to late-succession conifer or conifer-hardwood forests; north aspects; sometimes found with yew	No	No	No suitable habitat found. No mesic north facing conifer-hardwood forests.
<i>Cypripedium montanum</i>	mountain lady's slipper	1,500-6,500ft in CA; mesic to wet, mid- to late- succession conifer or conifer-hardwood forests; north aspects; often found under montane dogwood	No	No	No suitable habitat found. No areas of PPN forest, area dominated by ABMA/ABCO. No mesic north facing conifer hardwood forests.
<i>Dendrocollybia racemosa</i>	branched collybia	No elevation restriction; on decayed fungi or occasionally in duff; usually within old growth conifer or conifer-hardwood forests	No	Yes	Old growth Red fir forest present; more specific habitat suitability parameters unknown, not detectable at time of survey. Unlikely to find this species above 3,500 feet elevation.
<i>Erigeron miser</i>	starved daisy	6,200-8,500ft; known only from Placer & Nevada counties; gravelly soils in crevices of near-vertical granite cliffs/faces	No	No	No suitable habitat found. No granite rock outcrops or gravelly soils.
<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i> var. <i>torreyanum</i>	Donner Pass buckwheat	Above 6,800ft on TNF; dry, unstable, gravelly or stony soils; often on harsh exposures (e.g. ridge tops, steep slopes)	No	No	No suitable habitat found. Openings are present but substrate is not suitable; gravelly silt-loam with no rocky volcanic substrate
<i>Fritillaria eastwoodiae</i>	Butte County fritillary	Below 4,900ft; full to partial sun; chaparral, woodland & conifer forest	No	No	Project above elevational range of species.

Species	Common name	Suitable habitat characteristics	Known in project	Suitable habitat in project	Why habitat is not suitable
<i>Helodium blandowii</i>	Blandow's bog-moss	Above 6,100ft in CA; usually found in bogs & fens, but sometimes seeps, wet meadows & under willows in riparian	No	No	No suitable habitat found. Project mostly below elevational range of species. No bog or fen habitat found.
<i>Ivesia aperta</i> var. <i>aperta</i>	Sierra Valley ivesia	5,000-6,000ft on TNF; east of Sierra crest; known only from Sierra & Dog Valleys; meadow edges, ephemeral stream channels, vernal wet flats & gentle, rocky slopes near springs	No	No	Project location outside species known range. Known from east of Sierra crest.
<i>Ivesia aperta</i> var. <i>canina</i>	Dog Valley ivesia	5,000-6,000ft; east of Sierra crest; known only from Dog Valley; meadow edges, ephemeral stream channels, vernal wet flats & gentle, rocky slopes near springs	No	No	Project location outside species known range. Known from east of Sierra crest.
<i>Ivesia sericoleuca</i>	Plumas ivesia	5,000-6,500ft on TNF; east of Sierra Crest; Plumas – Placer counties; vernal wet meadows & alkali flats	No	No	Project location outside species known range. Known from east of Sierra crest.
<i>Juncus luciensis</i>	Santa Lucia dwarf-rush	(925-)4,500-6,300ft (occurrences below 4,500ft only on south CA coast); known only from south CA coast, Modoc Plateau & east Nevada County; wet, sandy soils of seeps, meadows, vernal pools, streams, & roadsides	No	No	Project location outside species known range. Disjunct distribution and range of species. Closest known occurrences east of crest. No suitable habitat found.
<i>Lewisia cantelovii</i>	Cantelow's lewisia	1,000-4,500ft; known only from Yuba River drainage; wet rock cliffs & outcrops; usually with moss or club moss	No	No	No suitable habitat found. No rocky cliffs.
<i>Lewisia kelloggii</i> ssp. <i>hutchinsonii</i>	Hutchinson's lewisia	4800-7,000ft on TNF; ridgetops or relatively flat open areas; generally full sun; gravelly soils	Yes	Yes	LEKEHTNF28 and LEKEHTNF27. Plants and suitable habitat found near Lavezzola and Downie proposed re route. Marginal habitat found on Butcher Ranch and Pauley re route.
<i>Lewisia kelloggii</i> ssp. <i>kelloggii</i>	Kellogg's lewisia	Above 6,500ft on TNF; ridgetops or relatively flat open areas; generally full sun; gravelly or sandy soils	No	Yes	Suitable habitat found near proposed re route trails. No plants found.
<i>Lewisia longipetala</i>	long-petaled lewisia	Above 8,300ft on TNF; El Dorado – Nevada counties; north-facing slopes and ridge tops often found in wet soils near margins of persistent snow banks	No	No	Project area below known elevational range of species.
<i>Lewisia serrata</i>	saw-toothed lewisia	3,000-5,000ft; known only from American River drainage; wet rock cliffs & outcrops; usually with moss	No	No	Project area outside species known range. Known only from American River drainages.
<i>Meesia uliginosa</i>	broad-nerved hump-moss	Above 6,000ft on TNF; usually found in bogs or fens, but also very wet meadows	No	No	No suitable habitat found in project area.
<i>Mielichhoferia elongata</i>	elongate copper-moss	Below 3,500ft; soils with copper or heavy metals; moist to wet rock cliffs/outcrops	No	No	Project area above known species elevational range. No suitable habitat found.
<i>Monardella follettii</i>	Follett's monardella	2,500-5,600ft; known only from Plumas County; serpentine soils; partial to full sun; conifer forest edges/openings	No	No	Project outside species known range. No ultramafic soils.
<i>Peltigera gowardii</i>	Goward's waterfern	1,150-7,000ft in CA; cold, clear, unpolluted streams; often found on rocks in cascades	No	Yes	Cascading cliffside stream found at Downie re route crossings.
<i>Penstemon personatus</i>	closed-throated beardtongue	4,500-6,500ft; Plumas – north Nevada County; partial sun; north aspects; conifer forest edges/openings	No	Yes	Moist mixed conifer and red fir forest found along Downie re route.
<i>Phacelia stebbinsii</i>	Stebbins phacelia	2,000-6,700ft; known only in Rubicon & American River drainages partial to full sun; generally in rocky openings/outcrops, but also woodland or conifer forest edges/openings	No	No	Project area outside known species range. Known only from American River drainages.
<i>Phaeocollybia olivacea</i>	olive phaeocollybia	No elevation restriction; Yuba County & north; on roots of Pinaceae & Fagaceae; usually within old growth conifer or conifer-hardwood forests	No	Yes	Old growth Red fir forest present; more specific habitat suitability parameters unknown, not detectable at time of survey Unlikely to find this species above 3,500 feet elevation.

Species	Common name	Suitable habitat characteristics	Known in project	Suitable habitat in project	Why habitat is not suitable
<i>Pinus albicaulis</i>	whitebark pine	Above 6,500ft on TNF; subalpine & at timberline on rocky, well-drained soils	No	No	Project below known elevational range of species. No subalpine habitat.
<i>Poa sierrae</i>	Sierra bluegrass	1,000-5,500ft; shady moist slopes; conifer forest edges/openings	No	No	Project area mostly above known elevational range. No suitable habitat found in RF forest.
<i>Pyrrocoma lucida</i>	sticky pyrocoma	4,500-6,000ft on TNF; east of Sierra crest; known only from Plumas & Sierra Counties; vernal wet meadows & alkali flats	No	No	Project area not within known distribution of species. Known occurrences east of crest.
<i>Sowerbyella rhenana</i>	stalked orange peel-fungus	No elevation restriction; in duff; wet mossy areas; usually within old growth conifer forests	No	Yes	Old growth Red fir forest present; more specific habitat suitability parameters unknown, not detectable at time of survey Unlikely to find species at this elevation
<i>Tauschia howellii</i>	Howell's tauschia	5,500-8,500ft in CA; xeric ridge summits & slopes; decomposed granite gravel or sand; red fir & subalpine forest edges/openings	No	Yes	No areas of subalpine ridgetop, but some areas of LEKEH habitat might be marginal/suitable on Lavazzola and Downie re route.

3.2.1 TES Occurrences

Table 2. Known TES occurrences found near project area.

Species	Common Name	ID	Plant count	Acres	Last surveyed	Notes
<i>Lewisia kelloggii</i> ssp. <i>hutchisonii</i>	Hutchinson's lewisia	LEKEHTNF28	78	0.01	6/21/2017	Plants and habitat found along original flagline. Proposed route will be moved spring 2018 to avoid impact.
<i>Lewisia kelloggii</i> ssp. <i>hutchisonii</i>	Hutchinson's lewisia	LEKEHTNF27	32	0.01	6/21/2017	Plants and habitat found along original flag line. Flagline and proposed route changed 2017.

3.2.2 TES Suitable Habitat:

Suitable habitat was found for 14 TES species (Table 3). No suitable habitat found for any other TES botanical species.

Table 3. Summary of species with suitable habitat but no known occurrences in project area.

Species	Common name	Suitable habitat characteristics	Project Unit
<i>Botrychium ascendens</i>	upswept moonwort	Above 4,000ft (gen 5,000-7,500ft on TNF); wet habitats (riparian, seeps, meadows, etc.)	Lavezzola Re-route, Pauley Re-route, and Downie Re-route stream crossings.
<i>Botrychium crenulatum</i>	scalloped moonwort	Above 4,000ft (gen 5,000-7,500ft on TNF); wet habitats (riparian, seeps, meadows, etc.)	Lavezzola Re-route, Pauley Re-route, and Downie Re-route stream crossings.
<i>Botrychium lunaria</i>	common moonwort	Above 6,000ft in CA; wet habitats (riparian, seeps, meadows, etc.)	Lavezzola Re-route, Pauley Re-route, and Downie Re-route stream crossings.
<i>Botrychium minganense</i>	Mingan's moonwort	Above 4,000ft (gen 5,000-7,500ft on TNF); wet habitats (riparian, seeps, meadows, etc.)	Lavezzola Re-route, Pauley Re-route, and Downie Re-route stream crossings.
<i>Botrychium montanum</i>	western goblin	Above 4,000ft in CA; wet habitats (riparian, seeps, meadows, etc.)	Lavezzola Re-route, Pauley Re-route, and Downie Re-route stream crossings.

<i>Cudonia monticola</i>	large cudonia	No elevation restriction; in duff; usually within old-growth conifer forests	Lavezolla Re-route and Downie Re-route.
<i>Dendrocollybia racemosa</i>	branched collybia	No elevation restriction; on decayed fungi or occasionally in duff; usually within old growth conifer or conifer-hardwood forests	Lavezolla Re-route and Downie re-route
<i>Lewisia kelloggii</i> ssp. <i>kelloggii</i>	Kellogg's lewisia	Above 6,500ft on TNF; ridgetops or relatively flat open areas; generally full sun; gravelly or sandy soils	Lavezolla Re-route, Pauley re-route, and Downie re-route
<i>Peltigera gowardii</i>	Goward's waterfan	1,150-7,000ft in CA; cold, clear, unpolluted streams; often found on rocks in cascades	Downie re-route stream crossings
<i>Penstemon personatus</i>	closed-throated beardtongue	4,500-6,500ft; Plumas – north Nevada County; partial sun; north aspects; conifer forest edges/openings	Downie re-route
<i>Phaeocollybia olivacea</i>	olive phaeocollybia	No elevation restriction; Yuba County & north; on roots of Pinaceae & Fagaceae; usually within old growth conifer or conifer-hardwood forests	Lavezolla Re-route and Downie re-route
<i>Sowerbyella rhenana</i>	stalked orange peel-fungus	No elevation restriction; in duff; wet mossy areas; usually within old growth conifer forests	Downie re-route
<i>Tauschia howellii</i>	Howell's tauschia	5,500-8,500ft in CA; xeric ridge summits & slopes; decomposed granite gravel or sand; red fir & subalpine forest edges/openings	Lavezolla Re-route and Downie re-route

3.3 Effects of Proposed Action

3.3.1 Hutchison's and Kellogg's lewisia (*Lewisia kelloggii* ssp. *hutchisonii* and ssp. *kelloggii*)

3.3.1.1 Species Account

The two subspecies of the perennial forb species *Lewisia kelloggii* are addressed together because it remains unclear whether the subspecies classification is justified (Slakey, Sims and Lazar 2013). Currently, the two taxa are separated based on petal length— greater than 20 mm in *subsp. hutchisonii*; less than 20 mm in *subsp. kelloggii*—and leaf size— greater than 4.5 cm long x 1 cm wide in *subsp. hutchisonii*; less than 4.5 cm long x 1 cm wide in *subsp. kelloggii* (Baldwin et al. 2012, Slakey et al. 2013). But, many occurrences do not key out clearly to one subspecies and genetic analysis could not conclusively separate the subspecies (Slakey et al. 2013). This is further complicated by the fact that the subspecies ranges and suitable habitat overlap (California Native Plant Society 2016). The species ranges as far north as Siskiyou and Humboldt County and south to Mariposa and Madera County (Slakey et al. 2013). As of 2013, CNPS estimated that there were a total of 17 occurrences of *subsp. kelloggii*, 22 occurrences of *subsp. hutchisonii*, and 31 occurrences that could not confidently be assigned to subspecies (Slakey et al. 2013). In CNDDb, these taxa are not tracked as the occurrence level (only the USGS quad level), so a current estimate of occurrences across the range is not available (California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2016). On TNF, as of 2017, there are 28 occurrences of Hutchinson's lewisia and 2 occurrences of Kellogg's lewisia (USDA Forest Service 2016).

3.3.1.2 Habitat Status

Suitable habitat for Hutchinson's and Kellogg's lewisia includes ridge tops or relatively flat open areas with widely spaced trees in partial to full sun in upper montane coniferous forests from 4,800 to 7,800 feet (California Native Plant Society 2016). It generally occurs on soils of decomposed granite, slate, or volcanic rubble (Baldwin et al. 2012, Slakey et al. 2013).

3.3.1.3 Threats / Management Concerns

While the species is considered globally secure (G3G4), both subspecies are considered globally vulnerable with taxonomy in question (T2T3Q) (NatureServe 2016). In California, there is moderate degree of threat and the species is listed as one for which more information is needed (California Native Plant Society 2016). Overall trend—for the species as a whole and the subspecies in particular—is uncertain. Hutchinson’s and Kellogg’s lewisia is primarily threatened by off-highway vehicle use. Other major threats include camping, hiking, horticultural collection (California Native Plant Society 2016).

3.3.1.4 Extent in project and botanical analysis area

During botanical survey of project area, two new occurrences of Hutchinson’s lewisia were documented along the Lavezzola re route and Downie re route. Patches of suitable habitat were found along all four of the proposed re route trails. Hutchinson’s and Kellogg’s lewisia are spring ephemeral perennial herbs that are detectable only during a narrow window when succulent leaves and flowers are visible. After flowering the succulent leaves wither and the plant remains dormant underground undetectable. Since surveys were conducted at an appropriate season (May-June) for detection of the species, it can be assumed that plants did not go undetected in suitable habitat.

3.3.1.5 Effects from proposed action

Direct Effects

Based on limited scope of the proposed action (manual trail construction not extending beyond 5 feet of trail center) it is assumed there will be no effects to occurrences beyond 50 feet of proposed re-route. Direct effects to the new occurrences found along proposed re-route trails were mitigated by re alignment to buffer the known occurrences. 2017 initial analysis and assessment of long term monitoring plots on the TNF found that sites with OHV disturbance less than 20 meters from the plot had significantly lower density than sites without OHV disturbance (Patterson and Rowe 2017) Thus the greater the buffer applied to the known occurrences the better. The Lavezzola site was revisited in fall 2017 by Chelsea Morgan (botanist) and Paul Hart (recreation) to re align and flag the proposed route. The trail was moved uphill buffering occurrence by 50 feet to the edge of suitable habitat and a switchback through occurrence was eliminated (see Map 2). Steep terrain and rock cliffs prevented a larger buffer to the occurrence, but the lack of switchback and steepness of terrain will deter unauthorized OHV use down slope of trail. In spring 2018 the occurrence along the Downie re-route will be revisited and re aligned to avoid direct impact as well (see Map 3).

The project includes the following management requirements to further eliminate direct impacts from trail building and future OHV use for known occurrences near the Lavezzola and Downie/Rattlesnake re-route.

- Flag and avoid known occurrences and buffer ground disturbance by at least 50 feet.
- No staging of equipment or personal within known occurrences.
- Leave brush and obstructions between occurrence and trail within 50 foot buffer with sign indicating botanical resource protection.
- If feasible place trail downhill of suitable habitat near Downie re-route to deter shortcuts or unauthorized off trail use through suitable habitat.

Indirect Effects

Proposed action to re route trails has potential to effect suitable habitat for Hutchinson’s and Kellogg’s lewisia. Proposed re-route trails and decommission trails cross through identified potential habitat on Lavezzola Re-route, Pauley re-route, and Downie re-route. Total estimated suitable habitat identified near proposed trail is 2.3 acres using aerial photography. These patches of suitable habitat were identified as forest openings with gravely well-draining soils. At these project locations above 4,800 feet in upper montane coniferous forests and montane chaparral, patches of suitable habitat are not abundant and can be geographically isolated. Impact to these patches of suitable habitat along proposed re-route trails will consist of soil disturbance of 24”-36” along length of trail and brush removal of 5 feet from trail center. While the trail prism effects will be long lasting due to initial soil disturbance and continued soil

compaction from use, the scale of the impact on overall suitable habitat will be negligible. The small distinct occurrences of known Hutchison's and Kellogg's lewisia within a larger area of suitable habitat is probably due to the lack of special mechanism for seed dispersal. The small seeds may be shaken or blown out of the capsule (Mathew 1989) and often buried before seed maturation where rodents digging to eat the taproot are important dispersal agents (Davidson 2000). Due to this short range potential for seed dispersal, it is important to protect habitat surrounding known occurrences. Trails near the known occurrences on Lavazzola and Downie re-route have the potential to indirectly impact suitable habitat of the Hutchison's and Kellogg's lewisia if unauthorized OHV and non-motorized use expands beyond the trail prism into surrounding suitable habitat. See previous management requirements that minimize impact to suitable habitat.

Patches of suitable habitat along proposed decommission trails will be less impacted from OHV and non-motorized use. While the trail prism along decommission trails will take many years to naturally restore to potential habitat, the surrounding potential habitat for Hutchison's and Kellogg's lewisia will have less impact from unauthorized off trail use.

Cumulative Effects

The analysis of cumulative effects is limited to the 15.5 miles of geographically distinct proposed re-route and decommission routes. The scope and scale of impacts on botanical resources are not expected to propagate further than 50 feet from trail prism into the future. The effects of past actions on Hutchison's and Kellogg's lewisia are largely unknown in these remote inaccessible areas. Since the species is not tolerant of soil disturbance it can be assumed that past mining activities, road building, and trail systems have reduced the abundance and distribution of the species and degraded habitat. Currently the project area has 8 miles of existing motorized use trails. Upon completion of proposed action there will be 7.15 miles of trails. The 7.15 miles of proposed re-route trails to be completed will be more constructed with a sustainable gradient that will reduce erosion and damage beyond the trail prism. Thus less trail mileage built in a more sustainable manner is expected to have negligible or minimal impact on future distribution and abundance of Hutchison's and Kellogg's lewisia. Decommission trails will take many years to retain attributes of suitable habitat, but immediate closure of motorized use on trails will eliminate potential unauthorized use in potential habitat. No other reasonable foreseeable future action is known for the project area which is all located on federal lands.

3.3.2 Species with suitable habitat, but no occurrences in project area

During surveys of the project area, suitable habitat was identified, but no occurrences were found for the species in Table 3. These species are discussed in aggregate because the potential for indirect and cumulative effects of proposed activities is similar despite having different suitable habitat characteristics. The scale and scope of potential indirect and cumulative effects is limited to suitable habitat within 50 feet of proposed re-route and trail decommission. It is assumed that indirect and cumulative effects will not propagate beyond 50 feet of trail. There are no known occurrences of species with potential suitable habitat within 1 mile of project areas, thus the likelihood of colonization of suitable habitat is very low. The indirect and cumulative effects of suitable habitat will be negligible in relation to potential habitat found throughout Tahoe National forest land. Total project acreage of potential impact is 136 acres (trail buffered by 50 feet) with isolated areas of potential suitable habitat in the form of stream crossings, old growth, and gravelly/rocky openings.

3.4 CONFLICT DETERMINATION:

It is my determination that the proposed action **will not affect** Hutchison's and Kellogg's lewisia (*Lewisia kelloggii* ssp. *hutchisonii* and ssp. *kelloggii*). My determination is based on a) lack of known occurrences within 50 foot buffer, b) management requirements to eliminate effects to nearby occurrences and suitable habitat, c) and the negligible scale and scope of indirect impacts to suitable habitat from proposed actions.

It is my determination that the proposed action **will not affect** upswept moonwort (*Botrychium ascendens*), scalloped moonwort (*Botrychium crenulatum*), common moonwort (*Botrychium lunaria*), Mingan's moonwort (*Botrychium minganense*), western goblin (*Botrychium montanum*), large cudonia (*Cudonia monticola*), branched collybia (*Dendrocollybia racemose*), Goward's waterfan (*Peltigera gowardii*), closed throated beardtongue (*Penstemon personatus*), olive phaeocollybia (*Phaeocollybia olivacea*), stalked orange peel fungus (*Sowerbyella rhenana*), and Howell's tauschia (*Tauschia howellii*). My determination is based on: a) lack of any known occurrences within 1 mile and b) small scale and scope of indirect impacts to suitable habitat from proposed actions. No suitable habitat was found for any other TES botanical species.

It is my determination that the proposed action **will not affect** any other federally threatened, endangered, or proposed botanical species. My determination is based on the lack of any T&E botanical species occurrences and the absence of suitable habitat known within the project area.

4 OTHER BOTANICAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

This section discusses any other botanical resources that may be affected by the project, including watch list species, special management areas, unique plant communities, and special habitat (e.g. fens, meadows).

Table 4. TNF Watch List

Species / Community	Common name	Habitat	Known in project
<i>Allium jepsonii</i>	Jepson's onion	900-4,400', foothill woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, serpentine or volcanic soils	No
<i>Allium sanbornii</i> var. <i>congdonii</i>	Congdon's onion	1,000-5,000', serpentine soils	No
<i>Allium sanbornii</i> var. <i>sanbornii</i>	Sanborn's onion	1,000-5,000', serpentine soils	No
<i>Arctostaphylos mewukka</i> ssp. <i>truei</i>	True's manzanita	2,500-6,000', chaparral and lower montane coniferous forest	No
<i>Arctostaphylos nissenana</i>	Nissenan manzanita	1,500 to 3,500', chaparral/closed-cone pine forest	No
<i>Calochortus clavatus</i> var. <i>avius</i>	clubhair mariposa lily	3,000-5,800', forest edges (ARRD), lava cap	No
<i>Calystegia vanzuukiae</i>	Van Zuuk's morning-glory	1640-3875', serpentine/gabbro soils	No
<i>Cardamine pachystigma</i> var. <i>dissectifolia</i>	serpentine bittercress	Openings below 6,900'	No
<i>Carex davyi</i>	Davy's sedge	4,800-10,600', subalpine/red fir forest	No
<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i>	woolly fruit sedge	1,900-6,900', fens, wet areas	No
<i>Carex limosa</i>	mud sedge	4,000-8,700', fens, wet areas	No
<i>Carex praticola</i>	meadow sedge	1,600-10,500', meadows/wet areas	No
<i>Carex sheldonii</i>	Sheldon's sedge	4,000-5,000', wet areas	No
<i>Ceanothus arcuatus</i>	Arching ceanothus	1,900', 7,025', serpentine soils	No
<i>Chlorogalum grandiflorum</i>	red hills soaproot	800-4,100', serpentine soils	No
<i>Clarkia biloba</i> ssp. <i>brandegeae</i>	Brandegee's claria	<3,100', forest edges/openings	No
<i>Clarkia mildrediae</i> ssp. <i>lutescens</i>	Mildred's clarkia	<5,750', woodland/forest edges	No
<i>Clarkia mildrediae</i> ssp. <i>mildrediae</i>	Mildred's clarkia	800-5,650', woodland/forest edges	No
<i>Claytonia megarhiza</i>	alpine springbeauty	Above 8,000', talus/rock crevices	No

Species / Community	Common name	Habitat	Known in project
<i>Corallorhiza trifida</i>	yellow coralroot	4,450-5,750', wet areas	No
<i>Darlingtonia californica</i>	California pitcherplant	Below 8,500', wetlands/riparian	No
<i>Drosera angelica</i>	English sundew	Below 7,000', wetlands/riparian	No
<i>Epilobium howellii</i>	Yuba Pass willowherb	6,000-9,000', wetlands/riparian	No
<i>Epilobium luteum</i>	yellow willowherb	4,900-5,600', wetland areas	No
<i>Erigeron petrophyllus</i> var. <i>sierrensis</i>	northern Sierra daisy	900-5,700', serpentine soils	No
<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i> var. <i>ahartii</i>	Ahart's buckwheat	Below 6,600', serpentine soils	No
<i>Eremogone cliftonii</i>	Clifton's eremogone	1,490-5,850', opening in chaparral, montane coniferous forest	No
<i>Glyceria grandis</i>	American mannagrass	Below 6,890', riparian/wetland	No
<i>Hemiea ranunculifolia</i>	buttercup-leaf suksdorfia	4,900', 8,200', riparian/wetland	No
<i>Horkelia parryi</i>	Parry's horkelia	Below 3,400' openings/edges	No
<i>Lilium humboldtii</i> ssp. <i>humboldtii</i>	Humboldt lily	1,500-4,200', forest edges/openings	No
<i>Lycopus uniflorus</i>	northern bugleweed	Below 6,600', wetland/riparian	No
<i>Meesia longiseta</i>	meesia moss	All elevations, wetland/riparian areas	No
<i>Meesia triquetra</i>	meesia moss	4,200-9,700', primarily fens	No
<i>Micranthes howellii</i>	Howell's saxifrage	Below 3,000', wetland/riparian areas	No
<i>Mimulus glaucescens</i>	shieldbract monkeyflower	Below 4,100', forest edges/openings	No
<i>Mimulus laciniatus</i>	cutleaf monkeyflower	3,300-8,700', seeps in granite	No
<i>Oreostemma elatum</i>	Plumas alpine aster	3,200-6,700', wetland/riparian areas	No
<i>Packera eurycephala</i> var. <i>lewisrosei</i>	Lewis' groundsel	900-6,200', serpentine soils	No
<i>Penstemon sudans</i>	Susanville beardtongue	3,900-8,000', edges/openings	No
<i>Perideridia bacigalupi</i>	Mother Lode yampah	1,400-3,400', serpentine soils	No
<i>Piperia colemanii</i>	Coleman's piperia	3,900-7,600', coniferous forest	No
<i>Potamogeton praelongus</i>	whitestem pondweed	5,900-9,850, wetlands	No
<i>Pseudostellaria sierrae</i>	pseudostellaria	4,000-7,200', forest edges/openings	No
<i>Rhamnus alnifolia</i>	alderleaf buckthorn	4,500-7,000', wetland/riparian areas	No
<i>Rhynchospora alba</i>	white beaksedge	150-6,700, wetlands/riparian areas	No
<i>Rhynchospora capitellata</i>	brownish beaksedge	150-6,600 wetlands/riparian areas	No
<i>Sanicula tracyi</i>	Tracy's blacksnakeroot	300-5,200', openings/edges	No
<i>Schoenoplectus subterminalis</i>	swaying bulrush	2,400-7,400', wetlands	No
<i>Scutellaria galericulata</i>	marsh skullcap	4,000-7,000', streambanks	No
<i>Sidalcea gigantea</i>	giant	2,100-6,400', wetland/riparian areas	No

Species / Community	Common name	Habitat	Known in project
	checkerbloom		
<i>Sedum albomarginatum</i>	Feather River stonecrop	850-6,400', riparian/river canyons	No
<i>Silene occidentalis</i> ssp. <i>longistipitata</i>	western catchfly	3,200-6,600', forest edges/openings	No
<i>Silene occidentalis</i> ssp. <i>occidentalis</i>	western catchfly	4,000-6,900', forest edges/openings	No
<i>Sphagnum</i> species	peat moss	All elevations, fens/ peatlands	No
<i>Stachys pilosa</i>	hairy hedgenettle	3,900-5,850', wetland/riparian areas	No
<i>Stellaria obtusa</i>	Rocky Mountain checkweed	5,200-6,600', forest edges/openings	No
<i>Stuckenia filiformis</i>	fineleaf pondweed	980-7,055', wetlands	No
<i>Tonestus eximius</i>	Lake Tahoe serpentweed	8,000-10,000', granitic areas	No
<i>Utricularia minor</i>	lesser bladderwort	Above 1,500', shallow water	No
<i>Veronica cusickii</i>	Cusick's speedwell	Above 6,500', moist soils	No
Special aquatic features (SNFPA)	Fens	All elevations on the TNF, wet areas	No

TNF maintains a watch list of plant species that are of conservation concern, but have not been designated as Sensitive by the Regional Forester. This list includes species that are newly described; locally rare; range extensions or disjunct populations; plants of specific public interest; or species with too little information to determine their appropriate status.

Survey for and document occurrences of these species. Watch list species are to be considered during project planning, but are not included in the project's Biological Evaluation.

There are no watchlist occurrences or other botanical resources within the project area. No impacts are anticipated from proposed trail re-route and decommission.

5 INVASIVE PLANT RISK ASSESSMENT

This section discusses risks from invasive plants associated with proposed action.

Table 5. Invasive plants of management concern on TNF. If infestations occur in project area, it is noted in the far right column.

Scientific Name	Common Name	CDFA	Cal-IPC	Known in project
<i>Acroptilon repens</i>	Russian knapweed	B	Moderate	No
<i>Aegilops triuncialis</i>	barbed goatgrass	not rated	High	No
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	tree-of-heaven	Not rated	Moderate	No
<i>Arundo donax</i>	giant reed	B	High	No
<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	cheatgrass	Not rated	High	No
<i>Berteroa incana</i>	hoary alyssum	Q	N/A	No
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	musk thistle	A	Moderate	No
<i>Carduus pyconcephalus</i>	Italian thistle	C	Moderate	No
<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>	diffuse knapweed	A	Moderate	No
<i>Centaurea melitensis</i>	Maltese starthistle	C	Moderate	No
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	yellow starthistle	C	High	No
<i>Centaurea stoebe</i>	spotted knapweed	A	High	No
<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>	skeletonweed	A	Moderate	No

<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada thistle	B	Moderate	No
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	pampasgrass	Not rated	High	No
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	scotchbroom	C	High	No
<i>Diurhiza graveolens</i>	stinkwort	Not rated	Moderate	No
<i>Elymus caput-medusae</i>	medusahead	C	High	No
<i>Euphorbia oblongata</i>	oblong spurge	B	Limited	No
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	fennel	Not rated	High	No
<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	French broom	C	High	No
<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>	hydrilla	A	High	No
<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>	dyer's woad	B	Moderate	No
<i>Lepidium chalepensis</i>	lenspod whitetop	B	Moderate	No
<i>Lepidium draba</i>	whitetop	B	Moderate	No
<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	tall whitetop	B	High	No
<i>Linaria dalmatica</i> ssp. <i>dalmatica</i>	Dalmatian toadflax	A	Moderate	No
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	purple loosestrife	B	High	No
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Eurasian water milfoil	C	High	No
<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Scotch thistle	A	High	No
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	reed canary grass	Not rated	High	No
<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>	Himalayan blackberry	Not rated	High	No
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish broom	C	High	No
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	gorse	B	High	No

CDFA: California Department of Food and Agriculture Noxious Weed List (<http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/phpps/ipc/>). A—Weeds for which eradication or containment is required at the state or county level. B—Weeds for which eradication or containment is at the discretion of the County Agricultural Commissioner. C—Weeds that require eradication or containment only when found in a nursery or at the discretion of the County Agricultural Commissioner. Q—Weeds that require temporary "A" action pending determination of a permanent rating.
 Cal-IPC: California Invasive Plant Council Online Invasive Plant Inventory (2006) (<http://www.cal-ipc.org/ip/inventory/weedlist.php>) High—Species having severe ecological impacts on physical processes, plant and animal communities, and vegetation structure. Moderate—Species having substantial and apparent—but generally not severe—ecological impacts on physical processes, plant and animal communities, and vegetation structure. Limited—Species that are invasive but their ecological impacts are minor on a statewide level or there was not enough information to justify a higher score. Alert—Species with significant potential for invading new ecosystems.

There are no known invasive plant occurrences within project area. Only one Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) is within one mile of project areas. All project areas except for the 2nd Divide Extension are located over 5,000 feet in elevation which makes the vulnerability to invasion low. Management requirements that include cleaning of equipment prior to use in project area and use of weed-free construction materials will minimize risk of introduction due to project activities.

5.1 Invasive Plant infestations known in the project area:

There are no invasive plant occurrences within the project area.

5.2 Habitat vulnerability & non-project related vectors:

Overall habitat vulnerability to invasive plant introduction is low due to the high elevation of project areas. All project areas apart from the 2nd Divide Extension are located over 5,000 feet in elevation. Many invasive plants do not survive at such elevations and natural spread by wind and water are not as likely uphill from lower elevations. Overall the project area is surrounded by intact mature forest and shrublands that are resistant to invasion. Existing trails in the project area are currently free of invasive plants and the proposed action to decommission those existing trails will further reduce potential for introduction. The creation of 7.15 miles of new trail has the potential to create a vector of introduction in new areas due to

users. Many mountain bike and motor bike users do not wash mud from tires of bikes which can spread seeds of invasive plants. Increased use of trail from bike use has potential to introduce invasive plants. The Downieville downhill trail system is a very popular and heavily used trail in the same watershed and elevations. New invasive plants have not been detected along this trail system due to increased use.

5.3 Habitat Alteration or Increased Vectors as a Result of Project:

Construction of 7.15 miles of proposed re-route trails will cause ground disturbance and the potential vector for introduction of invasive plants. Management requirements will reduce the risk of invasive introduction by cleaning equipment, utilizing weed free construction materials, and sources of revegetation approved by district botanist.

5.4 Anticipated Invasive Plant Response:

The anticipated invasive plant response to this project is **Low**. My assessment is based on a) lack of known invasive plant populations in project area and vicinity of 1 mile and b) project management requirements that reduce the risk of invasive plant introduction.

6 BOTANICAL RESOURCE & INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

The following management requirements have been incorporated into project design to minimize impacts to TES & other botanical resources.

1. **Flag and avoid** known occurrences of Hutchison's lewisia (*Lewisia kelloggii ssp. hutchisonii*) and buffer ground disturbance by at least 50 feet. Known occurrences located on Downie and Lavezzola re-route.
2. **No staging of equipment or personal** within known occurrences of Hutchison's lewisia (*Lewisia kelloggii ssp. hutchisonii*). Known occurrences located on Downie and Lavezzola re-route.
3. **Leave brush and obstructions** between known occurrences of Hutchison's lewisia (*Lewisia kelloggii ssp. hutchisonii*) and trail within 50 foot buffer with sign indicating botanical resource protection. If feasible place trail downhill of suitable habitat near Downie re-route to deter shortcuts or unauthorized off trail use through suitable habitat surrounding known occurrence.
4. **Additional survey and undetected occurrences prior to implementation.** Big Boulder and 2nd Divide Extension proposed trails will be surveyed in 2018 due to changes in 2017 project design. Any additional TES or TNF watchlist botanical species or other botanical resources discovered prior to implementation will be flagged and avoided until assessed for impacts by District Botanist.

The following measures will be implemented to reduce the risk of invasive plant establishment and spread associated with proposed activities.

1. **Equipment Cleaning**—All equipment and vehicles (Forest Service and contracted) operating off-road must be free of invasive plant material before moving into the project area. Equipment will be considered clean when visual inspection does not reveal soil, seeds, plant material or other such debris. Cleaning shall occur at a vehicle washing station or steam-cleaning facility before the equipment and vehicles enter the project area.
2. **Project-related disturbance**—Minimize the amount of ground and vegetation disturbance. As necessary, reestablish vegetation on disturbed bare ground to reduce invasive species establishment; revegetation is especially important in staging areas.
3. **Weed-free construction materials**—All gravel, aggregate, fill, mulch, topsoil, erosion control materials and other construction materials are required to be weed-free. When possible, use

onsite materials, unless contaminated with invasive species. Otherwise, obtain weed-free materials from sources that have been certified as weed-free.

4. **Revegetation**—Seed and plant mixes must be approved the District Botanist. Neither invasive species nor persistent non-natives (e.g. *Agropyron cristatum*, *Dactylis glomerata*, *Lolium* spp.) *will not be used in revegetation*. Seed lots will be tested for weed seed and test results will be provided to District Botanist. Seed and plant material should be collected from as close to the project area as possible, preferably from within the same watershed or at similar elevation.
5. **Early Detection**—Any infestations discovered prior to or during project implementation should be flagged and avoided. Report new infestations to District Botanist.
6. **Post Project Monitoring**—For projects involving ground disturbance or use of imported materials, notify the District Botanist after the project is completed, so that the project area can be monitored for invasive plants subsequent to project implementation (as funding allows).



PREPARED BY:

Chelsea Morgan, Botanist

DATE: 4-11-2018

REVIEWED BY:

Courtney Rowe, District Botanist

DATE:

For this project, this memo documents completion of the Biological Assessment & Biological Evaluation process for Threatened, Endangered, and Forest Service Sensitive Plant Species as outlined in Forest Service Manual 2670—Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Plants and Animals (as amended by R5 direction)—as well as the Noxious Weed Risk Assessment as outlined in the 2004 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment.

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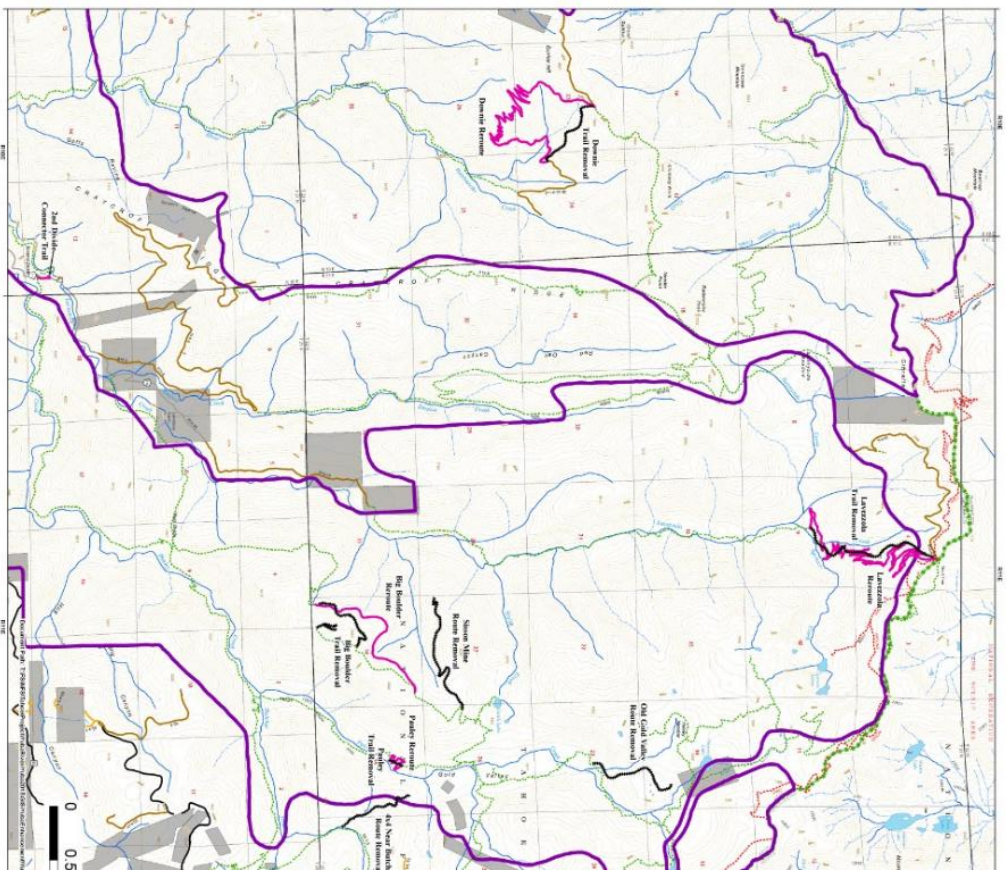
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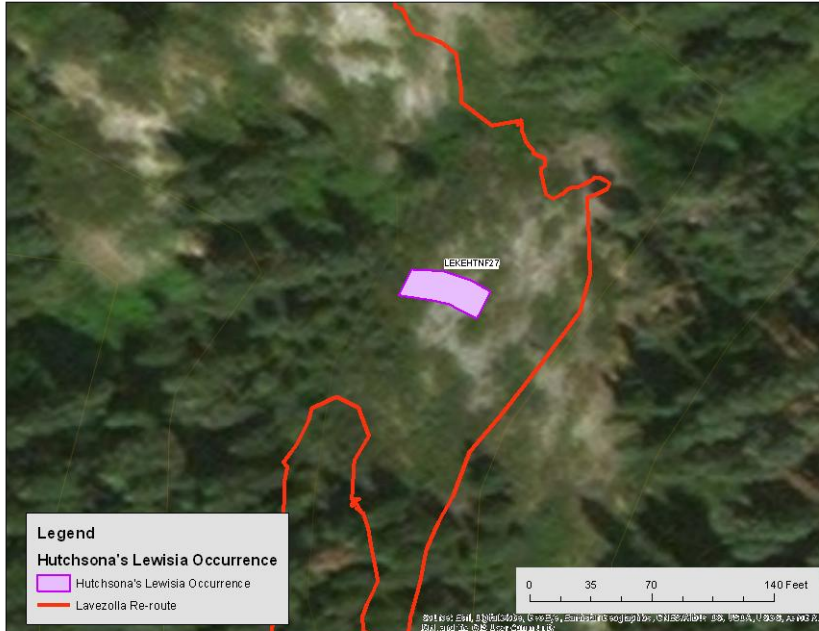
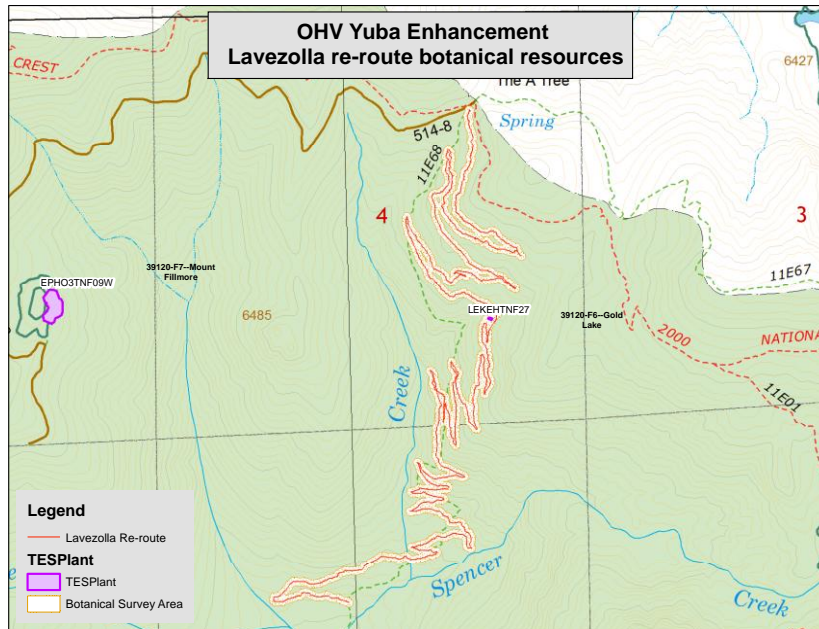
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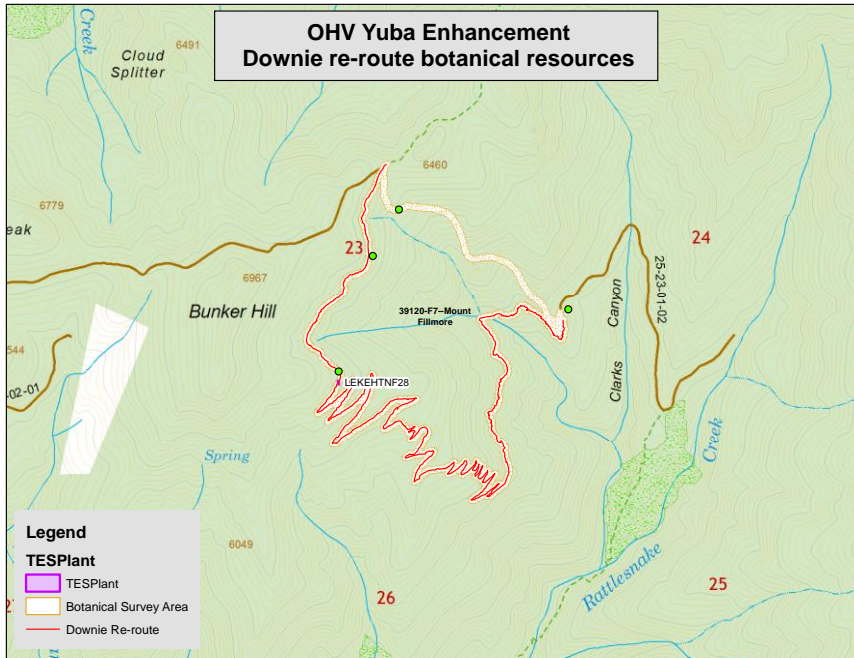
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Map 2. Known Hutchison's Lewisia near Lavezolla Re-route.



Map 3. Known Hutchison's Lewisia on Downie/Rattlesnake Re-route.



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